

LISTING OF CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions or listings of claims in the application.

1-20 (Canceled).

21. (New): A body heating/cooling apparatus, comprising:

a vest comprising a front panel and a back panel, said front panel and said back panel defining a cavity;

a flexible, continuous channel disposed in serpentine fashion throughout said cavity, said flexible, continuous channel having adjacent portions;

inlet means for infusing a fluid into said flexible, continuous channel;

outlet means for withdrawing a fluid from said flexible, continuous channel;

said adjacent portions of said flexible, continuous channel being connected by short passageways extending between corresponding adjacent portions;

said short passageways being configured with respect to said corresponding adjacent portions such that a fluid flowing through said corresponding adjacent portions normally substantially all bypasses said short passageways; and

said short passageways being configured with respect to said corresponding adjacent portions such that if one of said corresponding adjacent portions suffers a constriction, fluid will enter said short passageway to flow from one corresponding adjacent portion to another so as to bypass said constriction.

22. (New): The body heating/cooling apparatus of Claim 21, wherein said short passageway being configured with respect to said adjacent portions such that fluid flowing through said corresponding adjacent portions normally substantially all bypasses said short passageway comprises:

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said at least one short passageway intersecting said corresponding adjacent portions at substantially a right angle.

23. (New): The body heating/cooling apparatus of Claim 21, wherein said vest further comprises a fluid-absorbing material in thermal communication with said flexible, continuous channel.

24. (New): The body heating/cooling apparatus of Claim 23, wherein said front and back panels comprise first and second retainer layers; and wherein said fluid-absorbing material is disposed between said first and second retainer layers of said front and back panels.

25. (New): The body heating/cooling apparatus of Claim 24, wherein said fluid absorbing material comprises fluid absorbing particles.

26. (New): The body heating/cooling apparatus of Claim 24, wherein at least one of said first and second retainer layers comprises a substantially water-impermeable material.

27. (New): The body heating/cooling apparatus of Claim 26, wherein said substantially water-impermeable material is breathable.

28. (New): The body heating/cooling apparatus of Claim 24, wherein at least one of said first and second retainer layers has a substantially waterproof coating.

29. (New): The body heating/cooling apparatus of Claim 24, wherein at least one of said first and second retainer layers is a high-porosity material which permits the passage of liquids.

30. (New): The body heating/cooling apparatus of Claim 24, wherein at least one of said first and second retainer layers is a fluid-impervius material having a plurality of small punctures formed therein.

31. (New): The body heating/cooling apparatus of Claim 21, further comprising:

a pump; and

fluid conduits for connecting said pump to said inlet means and said

outlet means for placing said pump in fluid communication with said

flexible, continuous channel.

32. (New): The body heating/cooling apparatus of Claim 31, further comprising means in fluid communication with said pump for controlling the temperature of a fluid being pumped through said flexible, continuous channel.

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